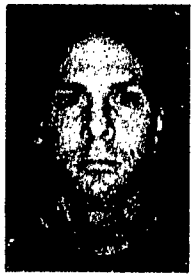


COMMUNITY NEWS

Fight leads to Maryville man's death

By Dominic Genetti,
Kenny Larabee
Community News Editor,
Chief Reporter



Steven Sapp

One man is dead and another is back in custody.

Steven A. Leach died after suffering wounds from a pocketknife following a fight with Steven T. Sapp, March 30 in Pickering, Mo.

The fight occurred in the driveway of Leach's relative.

Sapp, 29, of Tarkio, Mo., has been charged with second-degree murder and is being held at the Nodaway County Jail on \$250,000 bond.

Leach, 40, of Maryville, left the scene in his pickup truck, but passed out from excessive blood loss after driving two blocks, Nodaway County Sheriff Ben Espey said.

Leach was taken to St. Francis Hospital in Maryville where he was pronounced dead.

A few hours later, Sapp was arrested at his parents' home at 812 Walnut St. in Tarkio.

Leach arrived at his mother-in-law's home shortly after 10 p.m. Sunday night and encountered Sapp in the driveway, Espey said.

Leach's wife, Ruschia "Corky," was present at the time of the altercation, but Espey said no charges will be filed against her.

Leach's 5-year-old daughter, Harley, was in the truck at the time of the accident, but she did not sustain any injuries, according to Missouri Highway Patrol crash reports.

Leach lived in Hopkins with his family before

See MURDER on A8

NORTHWEST FOUNDATION

New Alumni Center plans move ahead

By Lindsay Jacobs
University News Editor

(This is the first of a two-part series on the new Northwest Alumni Center.)

Growth requires improvement.

The Northwest Foundation recently approved drawings to move to the construction phase of the new Alumni Center.

In the past few years, the foundation experienced growth. This project will improve alumni facilities, as well as provide further room for growth, Alumni Relations Director Steve Sutton said.

"Our goal is to engage and reengage some alumni, we feel this project will be advantageous for that," Sutton said.

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The Foundation board has approved \$4.9 million dollars for the project. Donor money will not be used; instead the money will come from issued bonds, Sutton said.

The proposed center will be built on the corner of College and North Munn avenues. Houses that are currently located at 714, 718 and 720 College Ave. and the one located at 325 N. Munn Ave. will be removed in order to accommodate the center. These properties are owned by the foundation.

The center will be two stories. Alumni Relations will be located on the first floor of the building with office space and conference rooms, Sutton said. The second floor is for development offices also

See CENTER on A8

UNIVERSITY NEWS

Car accident kills student

Northwest student Jeremy L. Harris, 20, died Saturday, March 31, from injuries sustained in a car accident.

Harris was driving northbound on U.S. 169 when he either misjudged the turn to go eastbound the Missouri 152 ramp or lost control, according to the Kansas City Star.

He vehicle went off the roadway, crossed an open area and went off an embankment, according to the Star.

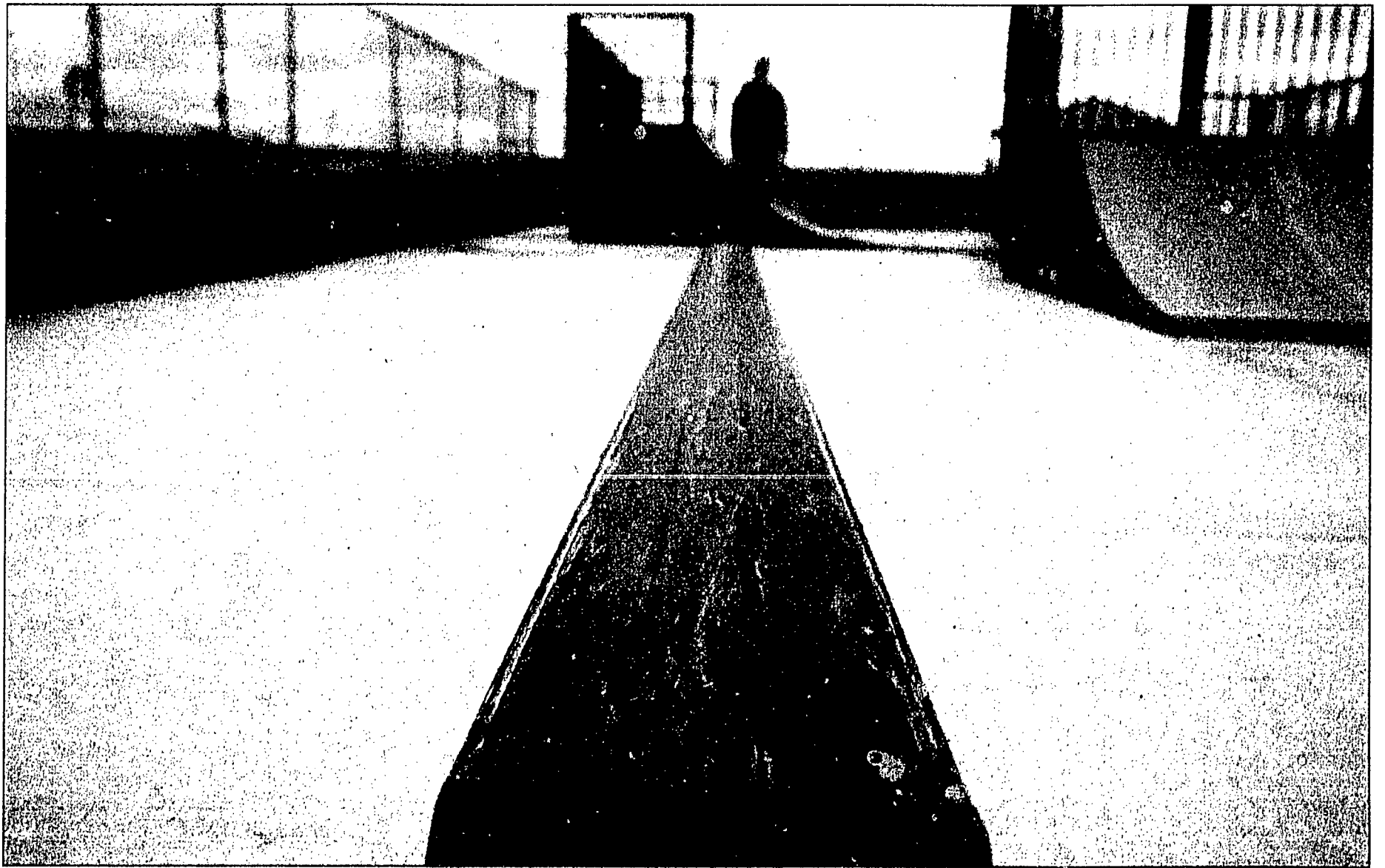
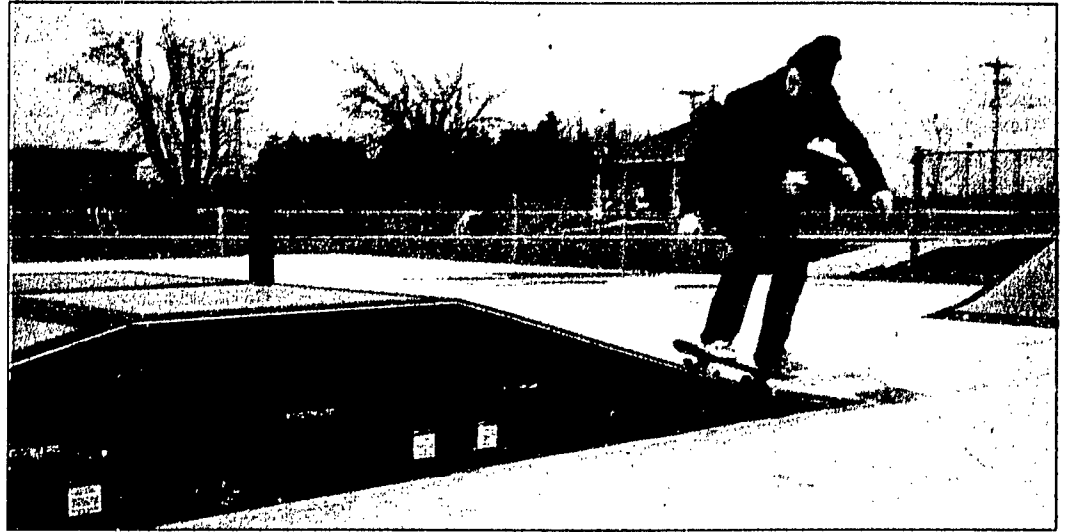
Funeral services for Harris will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, at the Sheffield Family Life Center in Kansas City.



Jeremy L. Harris

COMMUNITY FEATURE

Beyond the street



photos by matt terwilliger | missourian photographer

LUCAS LARSON, A Northwest graduate, grinds along the side of the ramp at the new skate park.

Not just a hobby, skateboarding emerges as true sport

By Christopher Woodland
Missourian Reporter

He rolled across the concrete surface of the Maryville skatepark on his new, black skateboard.

He wore a new shiny black helmet, black and blue elbow and knee pads and a neon green Nixia T-shirt.

"Look Mom, I'm doing it," 4-year-old Elijah Mayfield said.

Mayfield began skating just a couple weeks ago and illustrates the shift in the general perception of skateboarding over the past few years.

The kids in his father's youth group at the First Baptist Church introduced Elijah to skateboarding, his mother Sara Mayfield, 26, said.

"He always sees the kids on skates and thinks that they are the coolest thing in the world," Sara said. "All the kids he watches are good kids and do a lot of things with the church."

Sara sees nothing wrong with her 4-year-old already skateboarding as long as he's careful.

"I definitely wouldn't let him do it without pads," Sara said. "I don't know what I will think when he's good enough and doesn't wear them."

Skateboarding hasn't always been looked upon in a favorable way. It evolved from something viewed as a hobby to having special televised events on ESPN and an event in the X Games. It even impacted the

way people dress. Skating companies' hats, shirts and shoes like Volcom, Hurly and DC are worn even by non-skaters.

"In eighth grade it was assumed that everyone (that skated) just got high all the time, and now there's an advertising impact," Northwest senior Matt Terwilliger said. "A lot of companies just make skateboarding clothes for people who don't skate. There are shows like 'Rob and Big' and people try to make careers out of it. People realize that there's talent there, and not just punks"

Terwilliger began skating in eighth grade, not because he watched a show on MTV about it, or played one of the several Tony Hawk video games. Like Elijah, friends introduced Terwilliger to the sport, and he developed a raw love for the hobby.

"The sounds," Terwilliger said. "I went to a skate park with some friends and the sound of the board going across the rails, and the wheels hitting the ground was just awesome."

Maybe the perception hasn't changed as much as the actual skaters and their parents.

While skaters like Terwilliger and learned about skating from their friends, or television, a new generation of skaters find out about skating at younger ages just like Elijah Mayfield.

Unlike Elijah though, who learned about skating from other kids, some are taught to skate at a very young age by their skater parents.

Mya Smyles, 28, and fellow skater David Ivey, 21, took their families to the Maryville skate park at around 6 on a Thursday evening.

While skating, they also taught their children some skateboarding skills. Like the Mayfields, they see skateboarding as a positive activity for their children to participate in.

"It's a good hobby and it keeps the kids out of trouble," Ivey said.

Another reason for the change in opinion of skateboarding could deal with the polishing and coming of age of a hobby that was once an act of rebellion towards the older generation.

"It's progressed a lot now, it's a sport now," Smyles said. "It used to be skate on people's poles and piss them off. Since I've been skating, it was rebellion, now it's an art form."

Smyles and Ivey are parents like the Mayfields who take their kids out to the skate park and teach them how to skate, something that was a lot less common 10 years ago.

The rebellious aspect of skating has diminished in 2008, but some people still see it as a menace with many places banning skating in front of their businesses. The Barney Alice Plaza in Kansas City banned skateboarding with a \$250 minimum fine charged to anyone they catch breaking that rule. Ivey

See SKATE on A8

"It progressed a lot now, it's a sport now. It used to be skate on people's poles and piss them off. Since I've been skating, it was rebellion, now it's an art form,"

Mya Smyles, skater

MISSOURI STATE ARBORETUM

University calls on community to replant trees

By Sara Kendall
Missourian Reporter

Several new trees will be planted in the soil and in the hearts of everyone affected by the ice storm of late 2007.

Project plant-a-tree will continue the recovery process of the Northwest Arboretum. It will take place at 2 p.m., Friday, April, 11.

Northwest serves as the Missouri State Arboretum.

Project plant-a-tree will start at the Bell Tower with a tree planting by Northwest President Dean Hubbard to commemorate all those who have helped with the cleanup.

Adam Stone, a campus arborist will demonstrate how to plant a tree. All vol-

unteers will be split into several groups and each group will be responsible for planting new trees in a specific area of campus.

A severe ice storm destroyed several trees on the Northwest campus.

As a result of the storm, 79 trees had to be completely removed and another 340 trees were pruned in hopes of giving the trees the best chance of survival, said Lezlee Johnson, associate director of Environmental Services and director of the State Arboretum.

"We wanted to save trees that have been around for 50 or 60 years," she said.

The arboretum has become a focal point of beauty in the Maryville area. The destruction of so many trees brought

the community together to restore the arboretum, Johnson said.

Several organizations and individuals on campus and in the community have come together in the effort to replace the damaged trees on campus, Johnson said. More than 200 new trees have been purchased through donations by Greek organizations, alumni and other organizations, she said.

It is not only important to replace lost trees, it is also important to maintain the variety of species of trees on campus. Diversity of species promotes growth and stability, Johnson said.

Most trees that will be planted in the coming year are species the arboretum

How to Help?

79 trees were destroyed in the ice storm.

340 trees were pruned in hopes of giving the trees the best chance of survival.

200 new trees have been purchased for planting.

100 volunteers have already signed up.

100 more will be needed to make the project successful.

250 will receive a T-shirt for their contribution to the project.

The project will begin at 2 p.m., Friday, April, 11. To volunteer contact Volunteer Services Director Amy Nally at 562-1954.

See TRF on A8

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Series comes to a close with sculptor

Sculptor Gail Simpson will have an exhibit in the Olive DeLuce Fine Arts Building first floor gallery.
The exhibit is open and runs through Friday, April 25.

Free food, music highlight next week's block party

The Residence Hall Association will host a Block Party from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., Thursday, April 10, at the Bell Tower.
There will be giant inflatables, prizes, free food and the band Cohesion will play at 8 p.m.
For more information e-mail RHA@missouri.edu.

Radio station hosts rock band contest

X106 will hold a rock band competition 7:30 to 10 p.m., Saturday, April 12, in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom.
The winner will receive an Xbox 360 and Rock Band. Applications can be picked up at any Residential Hall.
For more information, contact 562-1162.

Reception planned for retiring faculty

A reception for those who are retiring will be held from 3 to 5 p.m., Thursday, April 10, in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom.
Those being honored are Deborah Clark, Richard Frucht, Suzanne Frucht, Michael Graham, Patricia Lucido and Francis Shipley.

Steppers plan to host dance show

The Bearcat Steppers will hold a variety dance show at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 10, in Bearcat Arena.
Tickets are \$5 for men and \$3 for students and children.
They will perform a variety of dances and there will be guest performers.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

A break from the ordinary



THE ALTERNATIVE SPRING Break group poses in front of Give Kids the World Village in Kissimmee, Fla., where volunteers spent their spring break assisting children with life-threatening illnesses.

Students 'give kids the world' during week in Florida

By Shane Sherwood
Senior Reporter

Some students spent their spring break in Florida, but instead of partying, they were helping others.
Twenty-one Northwest students got the opportunity to use their spring break to benefit society.

Northwest Alternative Spring Break (ASB) places teams of students in communities around the nation to engage in community service and learn something about social, economic and humanitarian issues in amazing locations. Volunteer Services Director Amy Nally said.

"Volunteering gives students the opportunity to meet new friends, network and make a difference in others' lives," Nally said.

This year, students traveled to Give Kids the World Village in Kissimmee, Fla. Students helped the children and their families to have a memorable experience during their stay at the village, Nally said.

Approximately 1,100 families are served by Give Kids the World Village each week, Nally said.

"Along with many helpful volunteers, this makes the wish child and their families visit very magical," Nally said.

Nally chose the village because, she wanted to give the students an opportunity to work with humanitar-

ian efforts and with children who had life-threatening illnesses.

"It was an opportunity for the students to see how non-profit organizations can truly contribute to communities and to those that they serve," Nally said. "Give Kids the World provided excellent hands on experience with real life situations for our students."

Nally also believes ASB gives students the opportunity to selflessly give up to give back to society.

ASB provides an opportunity to develop leadership skills and enhances civil responsibility. It is a great way to get involved and help others, Nally said.

Northwest student Heather Smith said ASB is important, because the group helps give back to the community.

"ASB is also important because it shows that people of all ages can come together to do something wonderful for someone else instead of ourselves," Smith said.

She also got involved with ASB this year because she wanted the experience of working with children.

"I am going to be working with children when I am older and I really thought this would be a great way to get involved with the children," Smith said. "I also got involved because I wanted to help children smile with

meaning and not have to worry about their medical conditions for a week. I wanted to help the children escape the pain they often feel."

While helping out for ASB, students did yard work, normally in the morning, while in the evenings, they would play with the children, Smith said.

On Monday night, Smith helped with the Kids Night Out, Parents Night In. During the party, she got the chance to hang out with a 6-year-old boy, Max, who was from England.

Thursday was Christmas at Give Kids the World, Smith said.

"There was a parade and the children all got gifts from Santa, and I helped with the set up for the party," Smith said.

The last day of ASB was Friday, which was a Pirates and Princess Party.

"I helped out with writing the girls' names down on a certificate that made them princesses," Smith said. "I loved watching the children have fun. They deserved it more than anyone."

Student Trudy Stensland has been involved with ASB since last year, when the program sent students to Miami to build homes for the Habitat for Humanity-Collegiate Challenge.

"Last year, I got to meet one of the families that had moved into one of the houses we were working on," Stensland said. "Just by the stories they had told me about how they were suffering before I was given the opportunity to change their lives made me change about how I felt about my life. I thought I had a hard time going through, I felt like my life was perfect."

This year, Stensland met 7-year-old twin brothers; one of them was very sick.

"He was my little brother for one night," Stensland said. "He changed how I feel about life. He is very sick, and he could possibly pass away any time soon. But he kept a smile on his face for the most part."

While at the Give Kids the World Village, some kids did not look sick, Stensland said.

"He was acting like a typical 7-year-old boy," Stensland said. "But I know deep down he knows he is sick and he won't be able to live a normal life like his brother."

While participating in ASB, Stensland began to appreciate her life more.

"I feel honored to be healthy and don't have the thought of one of these days I just might pass away and can't fight sickness," Stensland said. "I think ASB is one of the best experiences anybody can take part in. It is a lot of work, but it changed me as a person in the outcome."

"The Apple Award was recently renamed the David L. Adams Apple Award, after a friend of Widmer's suddenly died."

"To get the first one named after him was important to me," Widmer said.

Two issues were chosen and judged by editors from the New York Times.

Editor in Chief Kristine Hotop chose the Jan. 17 and Jan. 31 issues, because community news, university news, Vibe and sports sections were put together well.

Since winning the award, there have been several requests for Northwest to send copies of their newspaper to other colleges to be compared with other collegiate publications.

"We have set a standard that other people are trying to achieve and that is a great feeling," Widmer said. "We are a point of comparison and if they can do as well as us that is a motivation for everyone."

The Missouriian was up against successful publications such as the papers from Western Kentucky and Truman Widmer said.

"I really surprised me, because you expect to compete against them, but you never expect to win. When Laura (Widmer) told me we had never done that before, that was huge," Hotop said.

The Apple Award should be celebrated by every one, Widmer said.

"The cool thing about it was that it wasn't just me and Evan (the managing editor), everyone has a hand in it," Hotop said.

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Missourian wins award in New York

By Destinee Biesemeyer
Missourian Reporter

A few weeks ago, Northwest Student Publications, along with 340 other universities from around the country, traveled to New York City for the College Media Advisers Convention.

Here, the Northwest Missouriian won the Apple Award for non-daily broadsheet newspaper.

"This is, in my opinion, even bigger than a Pacemaker (equivalent to collegiate Pulitzer) because there is only one winner and the Missouriian won this. I think this is the biggest honor the Missouriian has ever received," Student Publications Director Laura Widmer said.

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CAMPUS

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Spurlock set to speak Sunday

By Elizabeth Sexton
Missourian Reporter

Morgan Spurlock has been roving around the globe in action hero style, filming his hunt for Osama Bin Laden. On Sunday, April 6, Spurlock will take another type of journey to Maryville for a rescheduled campus appearance at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

The documentary filmmaker of "Supersize Me" comes to campus with a new project in the bag and sense of timing. Spurlock's most recent movie "Where in the World is Osama Bin Laden?" has a release date of Friday, April 18 and premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January, where Spurlock had taken ill.

Due to pneumonia and "doctor's orders," Spurlock was forced to take a rest from his travels to Maryville on the original event date of Jan. 31.

Student Spurlock was stuck in Utah for over a week said Student Activities Council Lecture Chairman Wesley Miller.

Undeterred, Miller was able to reschedule the event and said this experience has given him a new sense of real-life, a feeling similar to the results of Spurlock's projects.

"It has made me as an individual step back and look at the reality of things and realize that sometimes things can't be perfect," Miller said.

In the same light, Spurlock's unscheduled television show "30 Days" shares intimate life experiences on altering levels. Entering its third season on FX in June, this program explores pressing social issues by juxtaposing unexpected people and situations in month-long experiments. This season will take on issues including same-sex parenting, animal rights and life in a wheelchair. Spurlock's speech will address a topic that he personally encountered on the show.

"One of the main topics that hit home for me and I know for a lot of college students is the topic of minimum wage," Miller said of the event's chosen theme. "One episode showed how he and his wife couldn't live on minimum wage, the effects of that, and how it breaks the family apart."

In videos of previous campus tours on Keplerspeakers.com, Spurlock discussed the experience of promoting in different countries and being motivated to produce movies and shows that

"will make people think about this world that we live in ... think about the state of this country ... and make people look at what is happening around us."

"Because the last thing I'm going to do is suddenly run off to Canada or run off to France or to change my name to Jean-Pierre," Spurlock said. "Because you know that I'm proud to be an American and I love being an American and I love this country."

Spurlock's passion recently took him on a mission to England, France, Morocco, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Jordan, Afghanistan and Pakistan where he discussed the war on terror with Arabic people while looking for Osama Bin Laden. Spurlock, described as a human "guinea pig" by Keplerspeakers, is known to jump onto the test table or into danger in order to shed light on relevant social issues. However, his latest quest was also motivated by a desire to "make the world safe" with the anticipated arrival of his newborn son, Laken James.

Despite the social activist's heartfelt intentions, Miller recently found evidence that Spurlock's efforts are not admired by all.

After discovering a "We Hate Morgan Spurlock" Facebook group with 1,000 members, Miller was surprised.

"Overall he brings an amazing message and I hope the community members and Northwest students can see that he is not trying to cause controversy," Miller said. "He wants to be real with us and he just brings the issues to the table. He does a great job doing it."

Morgan's appearance at Northwest is free and open to the public. Everyone in the community can take advantage in learning about the variety of topics Spurlock reaches, plus "he can be really funny and has a big impact on people," Miller said.

Although the rescheduled event is on a weekend, Miller hopes that the extra work-effort required by the change of plans will show in audience attendance.

"It's on a Sunday, but hopefully with the name being Morgan Spurlock there will be quite a bit of people there," Miller said. "I feel like so many people can take a lot away ... it's for everyone ... it's just not for one specific target group."



Morgan Spurlock
"Supersize Me" Director

NORTHWEST WEEK



TOWER QUEEN FINALISTS
Brooke Beeson, Abby Browning, Megan Victor, Jennifer Watson and Lauren Wilson pose for pictures after Victor was crowned Tuesday in front of the Memorial Bell Tower.

COMMENTARY

Missourian reporter gets hypnotized

By Micheal Clements
Chief Reporter

As I walked off the stage, for a few moments I was an exotic dancer. Coming to my senses I thought to myself "what the hell am I doing?"

While I don't recall much of the night, on March 20, Hypnotist Jim Wand came to Northwest, and I was one of the hypnotized students on stage.

As Wand directed us to stare into a light, the colorfulness slowly relaxed my eyes as everything became blurry, and I blinked, many, many times, before eventually closing my eyes.

The light starts the induction of hypnosis, Wand said.
"Some people see the light blurry,

for some there's a big black glow around it, some have where it disappears altogether," Wand said. "Each person experiences it a little bit differently, that's what's so unique about it."

My experience with hypnosis was definitely unique.

It took some time before remembering what went on, and with my friends laughing while they explain to me the details of what went on, parts of the night slowly came back to my memory.

It felt like a dream, and it was by far the greatest rest I have gotten in a long time. Hypnosis is comparable to eight hours of sleep, Wand said.

One of the major highlights of the night was a dance competition, to the song "Firecracker" by Josh Turner.

While I am not sure who won the competition, I felt I deserved the victory, although in reality it was probably a horrendous sight to see.

One thing I do remember very well from the night was watching one of my roommates, who was also hypnotized, act like Carrie Underwood singing the song "Before He Cheats."

I don't know if I laughed at the time, but it was very funny. Reese, you make a great country singer, but I wouldn't quit college just yet.

I also got the chance to judge a butt band, featuring people playing butt instruments. I thought the musicians were terrible and needed more enthusiasm.

Toward the end of the show, Wand

told one Northwest student that an arrangement of balloons was actually the King of Pop, and she would believe it was true until she walked out of the building, or one of the balloons popped.

After snapping back to reality, I observed the girl with the balloon figure as one of the balloons popped. Rather confused, she asked her friends "What was this?" They laughed as one replied "Michael Jackson."

While the main purpose of the night was entertainment, it wasn't all fun and games. Before walking off stage as an exotic dancer, Wand had the participants think of one thing they really wanted to change in their life. The one thing in my life I would change is ... a secret.

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Students get lesson in voting

By Lisa Houtchens
Chief Reporter

Students' voices do count. This year the Student Activities Council presented two speakers who appeared on the "Real World" to inform students to vote and every vote does matter.

With a Blackman, woman and a war veteran as candidates, the 2008 presidential election will be among the biggest and most important in U.S. history, Robin said from "Real World San Diego" said.

"It's your duty as an American to get out there and vote," Robin said. "Students should get involved in the voting process."

The speakers Syrus from "Real World Boston" and Robin weren't trying to sway the students to vote for one candidate over another. Their goals are educating students about

the effects to come shortly after they start something, Syrus said.

"Any time you can get students thinking about voting is successful," Student Activities Council Graduate Assistant Sara Smith said.

The importance of voting is crucial for students, because the person who is put into power ultimately affects everyone in America. Once students get into the voting process, it will help change society, Robin said.

"It's not just about voting, it's about being motivated, to take part in everything around you," Syrus said. "It's not just this election or just this vote. It's encompassing every tool that society gives us."

Voting takes time, it isn't instantaneous, it is a process. Students are always busy with something, so they can't take the time to vote. Students are for the instant gratification or

the effects to come shortly after they start something, Syrus said.

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ADVERTISEMENT

Food for Thought

A message from the Northwest Wellness Center



By Julie Livengood, RD, LD
Campus Dietitian

The practice of mindfulness, around for thousands of years, is a way of thinking. It is a technique in which people become intentionally aware of their thoughts and actions in the present moment.

Research suggests that those who practice mindfulness enjoy physical and emotional well-being, including improved self-esteem, better management of depression and reduced blood pressure.

One area of mindfulness focuses on eating. It is not a diet. It is not a fad. Basically, mindful eating is eating to live, not living to eat. It is eating intuitively. It is the simple practice of paying attention. When you practice mindful eating, you listen to your body, eat when you are hungry and stop when you are satisfied.

The key to mindful eating is to be in the present with mind and body. Eat an orange for its flavor, smell or texture; not because you are sad, angry or fearful about the past or future.

Think about how children eat - they eat enough to satisfy their hunger and then they are ready for play. If you eat like a child, you will find that you may start eating smaller meals more often throughout the day. Studies have found when a person eats like this, body metabolism increases; blood sugar levels stabilize; and one finds a healthy weight for their body.

Being conscious of what is happening in your life on all levels - tasting, seeing, hearing, feeling - is the first step to being mindful. The challenge is yours: nurture yourself ... start with one mindful meal a day.

This is a message from the Northwest Wellness Center. For more information about this topic, or to learn about our services for students, please call 1348.

We are the specialists in college health.

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MY VIEW

Time to protest the protesters

Anyone walking around on campus on Tuesday probably noticed the man holding a large sign bearing the image of an aborted fetus.



Sarah York and Jeff Kanger
Contributing Columnists

The intent was clear—to protest the practice of abortion—but the way he chose to convey his message raises a question: When does protest become counterproductive? There is a fine line between speaking out for a cause and offending the public.

The abortion protester on campus crossed that line, and in doing so, he drew attention away from the real message and turned it into a freak show.

To be clear, this column is not an abortion protest, it's a protest protest.

Using extreme and offensive measures to fight for a cause ultimately does not help that cause. Disagree with "Don't Ask Don't Tell" in the military? Don't protest military funerals.

If your conviction for a cause is so great that you'll exploit and disrespect people to make a point, you are probably not the right person to send that message. There are ways to shed light on an issue that won't leave the general public disgusted, confused and offended.

We concede that the protester on our campus had, at a basic level, good intentions.

After all, abortion is barbaric and controversial and certainly not to be compared with a mole removal. But regardless of your feeling on the issue, from its medical implications to a woman's right to choose, we think it's clear that everyone has a right to an opinion, but nobody has a right to exploit innocent people and upset the general public.

Have opinions? Want them heard?

The Northwest Missourian opinion page is looking for students and community members interested in being guest columnists or editorial writers for the spring trimester.

MY VIEW

Staffer: There are only 24 hours in a day, time to cut some slack

Thank God for spring break. After months of studying, taking tests and putting out stories for newspapers, a week-long break may be just enough to get me through April. I guess I'll find out because now the heavy loads hit.



Kenny Larabee
Chief Reporter

Before I left, I watched a video titled "A Vision of Students Today" on YouTube.com. The piece was created by Michael Wesch and about 200 Kansas State students dealing with issues such as workload and debt that college students face today. While K-State is much larger than Northwest, much of it was still applicable to students here in Maryville. If you haven't seen it, you should go to YouTube.com and check it out.

I thought of the video because as

I recently returned from a convention for college journalists, the workload of a term paper, an article log, planning for another week of newspaper stories and two tests in the span of two days smacked me right inside the face.

I understand that tests and papers are essential for evaluating the progress that students are making in classes. It wouldn't be a Kansas State student's life without them.

Most weeks I have multiple assignments in class, sometimes a test, sometimes multiple tests, sometimes an essay. I also have to write stories for the newspaper you

now hold in your hand. If you think that pays for bills, think again. A sixth grader makes more delivering the local paper than I do writing for this one.

On top of school, I still have to put gas in my car, food in my belly and a roof over my head. I really don't want to get any further in debt than humbly provide.

My advisers say that I also need to branch out, network and learn what can make me more desirable to potential employers.

Not only that, but studies show that we, as a country, are overweight, so I also have to make time to exercise. Dude, if I could make time, do you think I would be in college? I certainly wouldn't make time for exercising. I would make it to play video games.

I cannot remember the last day that I went without having to worry about a story, a test, an assignment,

researching, doing laundry, washing dishes, exercising, writing a term paper or being somewhere that I don't want to be. I also read somewhere that I'm supposed to get at least eight hours of this thing called sleep.

I think I'm teetering on the brink of insanity. If you see me running through the town square in nothing but my birthday suit, flailing my arms wildly and shouting, "Rubber baby buggy bumpers," at least you'll know why.

Some might argue that all of this is preparing us for the real world. I can sort of see that, but I'm a non-traditional student. I was a full-time worker for the better part of the last 10 years. It wasn't nearly this hard.

My days consisted of basically whatever I wanted in the morning and then going to work in a factory for eight hours at night. And trust me, in this day and age, factory work is not "low-skill" work. It's hard,

dirty and requires lots of training. It's more than just turning a dial or pushing a button. It's taking machines completely apart and putting them back together, so that they'll make a completely different sized part for a car, a jet or an everyday appliance.

Don't get me wrong, I wouldn't trade my last job for this. I would rather spend a night reviewing American Idol or burn my eyes out with a red-hot poker than work there.

All I'm asking for is a little slack. If you're a professor and I come up to you, and I don't have an assignment, or it appears that I put forth a lackluster effort into a test, please don't look at me like I'm the laziest person on earth or put on your "Uh-huh, more likely boozing it up until four in the morning" face.

And even if I was, should I feel guilty about a little "me" time? Maybe I should. After all, there are only 24 hours in a day.

PILOT'S GUN ACCIDENTALLY DISCHARGES ON U.S. AIRWAYS FLIGHT



MY VIEW

Second Amendment remains a topic of debate



Kathleen Wilmes
Contributing Columnist

The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution has crossed paths with the Supreme Court once again, the first time since 1939.

Before I dive any further into this, I must say what the Second Amendment states.

According to the Constitution, the Second Amendment is defined as "a well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

Does this amendment give explicit rights to individuals to bear arms, or does it instead give the right to the collective whole, which is the militia (the National Guard) in this sense?

Personally, I believe that an individual should have the right to own a

firearm. I think that hunting is great. I feel it is my right to protect my home and my family. However, I also think that textually the Constitution was referring to the Militia.

When the Constitution was written, and the first 10 amendments ratified, I believe that an individual's right to possess a firearm wasn't really an issue. However, I do believe that the states' right to have an armed militia was most definitely an issue.

I also believe that the right of an individual to bear arms was taken as common law, which is not written down in constitutions or legal documents, but instead is universally believed and is a present active precedent.

If the Supreme Court decides that the Second Amendment refers explicitly to the individual, legally there could still be restrictions, and this would most definitely be a restricted amendment.

If, however, the Supreme Court decides that the amendment refers to that of only the militia, nowhere in the United States Constitution does it restrict individuals from owning a gun.

It would in turn be left up to the states to determine whether or not it is appropriate or necessary for an individual to own or carry a firearm. And if allowed, to what extent that law should be regulated would in turn be determined by the counties and cities of that state.

Regardless of which way you lean toward, realize that with any decision in this case, there will be changes to what is currently practiced today. Both sides will be making sacrifices regardless of which side "wins" or "loses."

COMMENTS FROM NWMISSOURIANNEWS.COM



(Comments have not been edited or changed. They appear in print as they do on the Web site.)

In response to "Familiar Union cashier plans retirement after 2 decades" Mike posted 3/25

Even though it has been five years since I graduated I can still remember the true kindness of Irma. She was definitely a bright spot to campus dining and will be truly missed. Best wishes Irma and know you are appreciated by even Alumni Boats.

Con posted 3/20 Irma will truly be missed. During my time as a student at Northwest (which was longer than normal) I always found it amazing how it seemed like she knew everyone that ever came through her line. While checking people out she would make conversation and laugh with the students. She has truly become a landmark in the Union and I'm sure that she will be missed. Good luck Irma on whatever you do after May.

In response to "Your Man is anti anti-smoking" Phil posted 3/19

Give it a break. Nobody ever died from someone throwing up on them at a bar. And how many times does anyone have someone throw up on them compared to the number of non-smokers who end up breathing second-hand smoke at many venues. And to suggest that people who lose money at casinos are all on a robbery spree? Nice try at changing the subject. The reality is that secondhand smoke kills 53,000 Americans a year, mostly due to heart attacks/heart disease.

Lemonade Diet posted 3/21 Humans have the ability to adapt. When smokers at bars are not allowed to smoke, they just go outside to smoke. I know these 2 women who shared an apartment. They both went outside when they smoked. Why? They had 2 cats and they did not want to give them cancer.

tj spurgin posted 4/1 I was just reading the review. I believe it is more about the film. And Brandon R., I am pretty sure that the quotes around the movie title is their style, much like A1's style. And secondly, is a college newspaper, not the New York Times. I mean, the Missourian is great, but you have to look at it differently than a national syndicated newspaper. The reviewers are students, not professional film critics. Lay off.

In response to "10,000 B.C. doesn't stand the test of time" Brandon R. posted 3/21

Dear Brian Johnson, I want to preface this by saying that I'm not a big fan of 10,000 B.C. as a great movie. (Also, I do know that movie titles are underlined or italicized and not put in quotation marks. I'm not sure... (the full comment can be viewed online at Nwmissouriannews.com).

James Benley posted 3/31 I was just reading the review. I believe it is more about the film. And Brandon R., I am pretty sure that the quotes around the movie title is their style, much like A1's style. And secondly, is a college newspaper, not the New York Times. I mean, the Missourian is great, but you have to look at it differently than a national syndicated newspaper. The reviewers are students, not professional film critics. Lay off.

PUBLIC SAFETY

March 6

■ Structure fire report, 2600 block 238th St.

March 14

■ Kenneth Heinsoth, 20, Maryville, MI; 2000 block S. Main

March 16

■ Barbara L. Heflin, 47, Maryville, simple assault, 600 block E. Third St.

March 17

■ Julie B. Alley, 21, Maryville, simple assault, 400 block N. Mulberry

March 19

■ Larceny, ongoing investigation, 900 block S. Main

■ Melody S. Demar, 49, Maryville, wanted on warrant, 400 block N. Market

March 20

■ Katherine E. Rinas, 20, Independence, Mo., altered license, misrepresentation of age, 300 block N. Market

■ Andrew J. Leis, 19, Maryville, MI; 300 block N. Market

March 21

■ Smoke alarm investigation, 300 block S. Alco

■ Nathan W. Castle, 22, St. Joseph, Mo., driving without a valid driver's license, 300 block N. Vine

■ Phillip A. Dawson III, 23, Maryville, driving while suspended, 500 block N. Market

■ Abdulhaleem M.A. Sioty, 21, Maryville; Vivesh Sharma, 24, Maryville; Kostadin M. Malchev, 20, Maryville, peace disturbance, 400 block N. Walnut St.

■ Business larceny, ongoing investigation, 600 block S. Main

March 23

■ Nathan M. Woodward, 25, Maryville, indecent exposure, 300 block N. Market

March 24

■ Property damage, ongoing investigation, 1000 block N. Country Club

■ Amy C. Wooten, 35, Maryville, disorderly conduct; Jeanette R. Hamm, 58, Maryville, simple assault, disorderly conduct, 1100 block N. College Dr.

■ Larceny from a motor vehicle, ongoing investigation, 100 block N. Buchanan

March 25

■ James D. Goveert, 31, Maryville, wanted on warrant, 400 block N. Vine

■ Leaving the scene, ongoing investigation, 300 block S. Market

■ Grass fire report, U.S. Hwy 71 North and Hawk Road

March 26

■ An unknown driver collided with Brenda Barger, Maryville, U.S. Business Hwy 71 South

March 22

■ Penny G. Woods, 48, Gentry, Mo., collided with Adam J. Adwell, 28, Maryville, 1200 block S. Main St.

March 24

■ Irma R. Copeland, 57, Maryville, cited for failure to stop for steady red light, collided with Jeanette A. White, 69, Maryville, at the intersection of U.S. Business Hwy 71 and West South Hills Drive

■ An unknown driver collided with Brian L. Talbott, Maryville, 1600 block S. Main

March 25

■ An unknown driver collided with Robert R. Schmidt, 62, Maryville, at South Market and East Thompson

March 31

■ Charles J. Taube, 27, Rosendale, Mo., driving while revoked, wanted on warrant, 900 block N. Main

March 30

■ William P. Pope, 46, St. Joseph, Mo., DWI, failure to display headlights, 200 block S. Charles

■ Larceny, ongoing investigation, 900 block E. Fifth St.

March 29

■ Fraud, ongoing investigation, 200 block White Ridge Dr.

■ Recovered bicycle, 1000 block N. Fillmore

March 28

■ Fraud, ongoing investigation, 200 block White Ridge Dr.

■ Recovered bicycle, 1000 block N. Fillmore

March 27

■ Johnny T. Breeding, 19, Hopkins, Mo., wanted on warrant, 1600 block S. Main

March 32

■ Shannon D. King, 32, Barnard, Mo., wanted on warrant, 400 block N. Market

■ Domestic assault, ongoing investigation, 1100 block E. Halsey

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CITY BRIEFS

Chorale to perform Handel's 'Messiah'

The Nodaway Humane Society will present Handel's "Messiah" at 7 p.m., April 27 at St. Gregory's Catholic Church, 333 S. Davis in Maryville. Tickets are available from chorale singers and at the Bookstop, 220 N. Main in Maryville.

Prices are \$10, \$8 for seniors, \$5 for students with ID and children under 12 are admitted free.

Luncheon, auction to benefit NNHS

The New Nodaway Humane Society will sponsor a benefit luncheon and silent auction from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thursday, April 10, at the First Christian Church in Maryville to raise funds for the county-wide animal shelter.

Tickets for the event are \$6 each and are available by calling 562-3049 or e-mailing Nwaaa07@nwmissouri.edu.

'Cat Walk' to benefit Cystic Fibrosis

St. Francis Hospital and Health Services teams up with Northwest's "Be Well Committee" to host the annual "Cat Walk."

The walk is open to all residents in northwest Missouri with proceeds to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

The "Cat Walk" will take place in side Bearcat Arena on the Northwest campus from 9 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Saturday.

The cost to walk is \$2 per person. In addition to the walk, a health fair will take place.

The health fair will begin at 8 a.m. and will include screenings for bone density, blood pressure and lung function as well as information on cystic fibrosis.

For more information, on the "Cat Walk" or the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, contact Rita Miller at 562-7933.

South Nodaway to hold carnival, auction

There will be fun and items to bid on at South Nodaway High School in Barnard.

South Nodaway is hosting a carnival and silent auction from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday, April 13.

Items available to bid on include Northwest goodies, a surprise item from the Kansas City Chiefs, Omaha Royals tickets, Kansas City T-Bones tickets, St. Louis Cardinals tickets, free movies for one year from the Hangar, many restaurant gift certificates and other prizes.

LOCAL VOTING

CIP, city council seats to be decided in April 8 vote

By Kenny Larabee
Chief Reporter

Maryville citizens will have the opportunity to vote on two key issues Tuesday.

A Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) tax has been proposed to generate roughly \$7.9 million for city improvements. If passed, the CIP would increase the sales tax by one half of percent.

The main focus of the tax, an estimated \$4.8 million, would go towards a city street program. One million dollars is estimated for water, sewer and drain repairs, and \$700,000 would be allocated for trail development. Additional funds would be allocated to issues such as an emergency siren system and city parking.

BUSINESS CLOSING

Woodruff-Arnold to close

By Micheal Clements
Chief Reporter

Woodruff-Arnold's building center plans to close after 25 years of service.

Woodruff-Arnold, housed in the same building with Sears at 1315 S. Main St. will close while Sears remains open and a new business will take over this summer, owner Keith Arnold said.

"It's going to be remodeled and come out as a different type of store, and we're not ready to divulge all the information on that yet," Arnold said. "It's going to be something that has not been seen in Maryville before."

With retirement around the corner, Arnold is looking to slow down and simplify things, he said.

The building center has provided Maryville with building and decorating supplies, paint and hardware since opening in 1983.

Woodruff has been a name for construction in Maryville since the 1950s, construction manager Kenny Brancus said.

Construction, remodeling and service calls will be the new focus of Woodruff-Arnold, Brancus said.

"The Woodruff-Arnold name will disappear from the front of the store, but the Woodruff Arnold construction is still going to be here," Brancus said. "Feel free to pull around behind and come in the back door at the construction office."

The construction office does a variety of things including building and remodeling houses, plumbing, garage door installation and service calls to customers, Brancus said.

On the opposite side of the building, Sears has enjoyed success as being the top store in the district since opening last year, Arnold said.

Sears offers large appliances, lawn and garden supplies, tools and electronics.

"Sears has done very extensive research on Maryville and of course has some history," Arnold said. "We had a pretty good idea going into the project what it would do and it's met all those expectations."

The store taking the place next door should open up in June after the remodeling process is completed. Remodeling will start once Woodruff Arnold's closes, Arnold said.

Michelle Wickensham, Arnold's daughter, will manage the new store, and is looking forward to change.

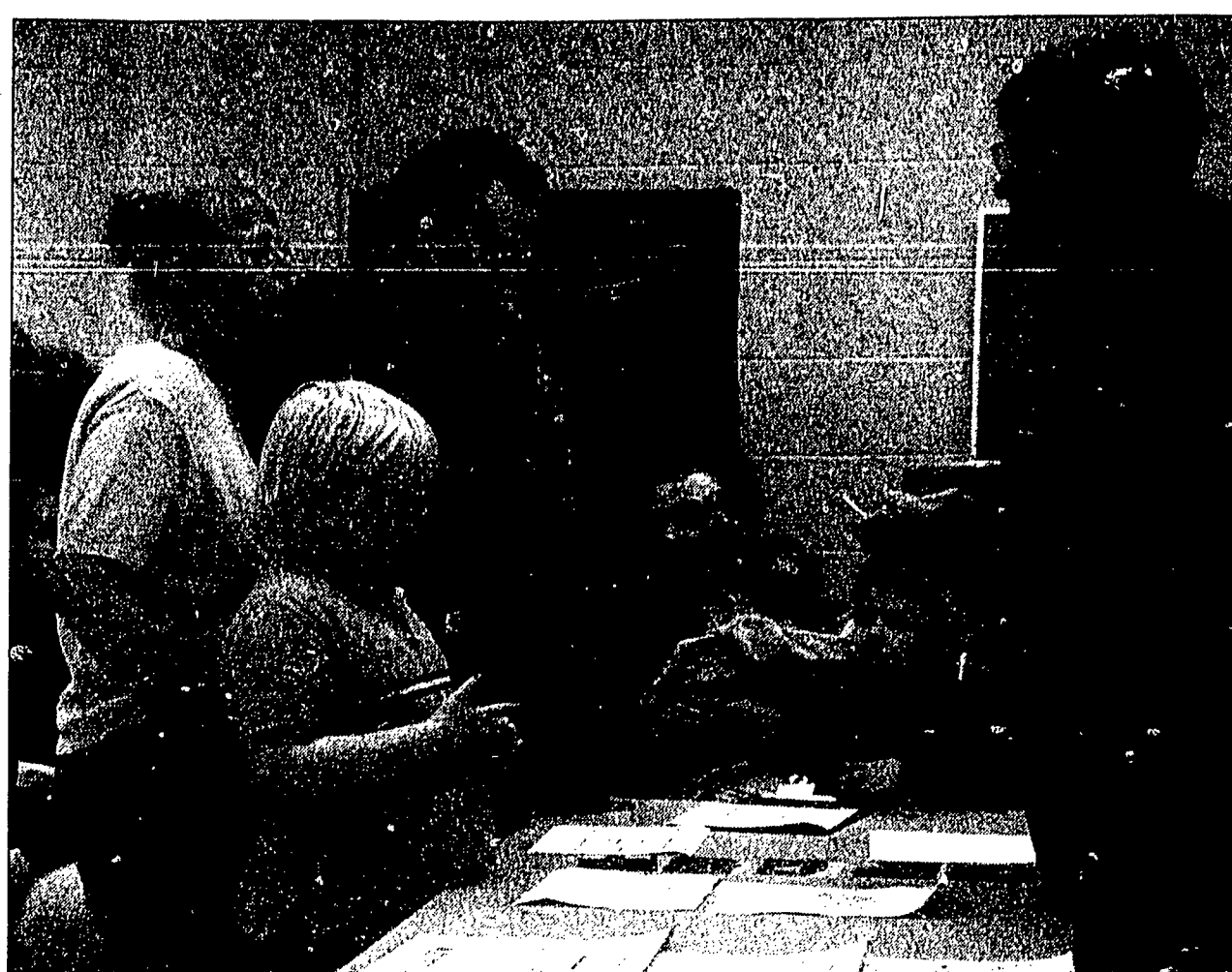
"As a family member it's kind of tough to see it close, but in a way I am excited," Wickensham said. "It's not something my brother and I wanted to take on, as far as the lumberyard and retail part."

Woodruff ask for the patients of the community while the store transforms into what Arnold calls a "big plus" for Maryville. "Maryville is a great town with a lot of great people... I wouldn't trade it for anything else, Arnold said."

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

"I knew it. I just had that feeling that we already had it when we turned the application in"

LaDean Gray



THE NEW FAMILY for Habitat for Humanity looks at the new plans for their house, which was announced Monday evening. The house generally contains about 1,100 square feet of space for the family.

Habitat surprises family with the gift of a home

By Kenny Larabee
Chief Reporter

With April Fool's Day one day away, one Maryville family was told a little white lie that turned out to be a rather pleasant surprise.

Ryan and LaDean Gray were asked to attend a Habitat for Humanity meeting to further evaluate area families applying for a Habitat home.

Instead, they were surprised to find out that the request was merely a ruse: they were being awarded the 2008 Habitat Home for Humanity.

Habitat for Humanity of Nodaway County surprised the Grays by naming them their 2008 partner family at St. Gregory Catholic Church Monday evening. From this partnership, Habitat for Humanity will help the Grays to construct an approximate 1,100 square-foot home in Maryville.

The one-story, ranch style home will be constructed at the address of 304 E. Cooper St. The building that had previously occupied the lot was demolished Monday morning.

Ryan and LaDean and their two children, Logan and Sarah, will occupy the home. For LaDean, she started figuring out that something was amiss before she even arrived through the church doors.

"I knew it. I just had that feeling that we already had it when we turned the application in," LaDean said. "To make sure of it, I see my mom walking across the parking lot."

Habitat for Humanity is a not-for-profit corporation building simple, decent, affordable housing for families that display a need.

care facility to the older building that has no handicapped access," Baldwin said.

Because the monastery contains many different buildings, several of the sisters in the main monastery did not realize what was going on.

"During morning prayer it was announced that there was a fire and that the elder sisters were being evacuated and moved up to the main monastery," Sister Lynn Marie said.

Community members came to assist in cleaning up, helping move the elderly nuns and providing other support.

"We have been humbled by the kindness we received and know we have been incredibly blessed," Sister Lynn Marie said.

"It has been a challenge moving from a state-of-the-art health

care facility to the older building that has no handicapped access," Baldwin said.

Because the monastery contains many different buildings, several of the sisters in the main monastery did not realize what was going on.

"During morning prayer it was announced that there was a fire and that the elder sisters were being evacuated and moved up to the main monastery," Sister Lynn Marie said.

Community members came to assist in cleaning up, helping move the elderly nuns and providing other support.

"We have been humbled by the kindness we received and know we have been incredibly blessed," Sister Lynn Marie said.

"It's a step up for us and with their help, it's possible, because with our income, if we were to go to the bank, we wouldn't get it," LaDean said. "The plus side is that we're going to pay on a principle and once we're done with that, it's done. It's not like we have to pay all this interest rate like other people out there are doing and struggling to do and losing their homes."

This will be the fifth home that Habitat for Humanity of Nodaway County has built, but the first in Maryville, Wiederholt said.

"We're really excited about it. Of course, many members of the Maryville community have gone into other communities in Nodaway County and help construct the previous four houses," Wiederholt said. "We're real excited to bring one here to Maryville, that they can actually help build in their own town."

One of the requirements for being the recipient of a Habitat home is that the family must help in the construction. That shouldn't

AREA FIRE

Clyde Monastery building catches on fire

By Erin Loges
Missourian Reporter

Early on March 23, a fire broke out in one of the monastery buildings in Clyde, Mo.

The monastery is run by the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

No one was injured in the fire that damaged the health care building.

The building is used to house elderly or infirm sisters. All nuns and staff were able to evacuate in time with the help of some guests who were there for Easter services, Communications Director Kelly Baldwin said.

"The sprinkler system actually put the fire out before first responders even got there," Kelly Baldwin,

director of communications, said.

The sprinkler system, which also caused water damage, is believed to have saved the building.

"The sisters had great foresight in installing a second tier of sprinklers inside the ceiling," Baldwin said. "These sprinklers caught the fire up above."

They are not sure when the elderly sisters are going to be able to move back in to the building.

"If they have to take off part of the roof, it will be much longer before the sisters can move back in," Baldwin said.

Right now, the sisters are being held in a part of the motherhouse that used to be an infirmary.

"It has been a challenge moving from a state-of-the-art health

dierks bentley

THROTTLE WIDE OPEN TOUR

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

BUCKY COVINGTON

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photo by Matt W. Miller
Missourian photographer

LUCAS LARSON, A Northwest graduate, took some time to ride the ramps at Maryville's new skate park.



SKATE: Parks like the one in Maryville keep kids off streets

Continued from A1

received a \$350 fine a little while ago at the Plaza.

For this reason and safety reasons, many cities have built skate parks recently, including Maryville.

It gives the kids somewhere to go and keeps them off the streets, and from getting into trouble," Sara Mayfield said.

Like rock and roll music of the 1950s or rap music of the 1980s, skateboarding, once a rebellious statement, ended up changing the way people dress and act. The surfers who created the first skateboards most likely could never have imagined the impact of their design 50 years later.

Designed as a way to surf on land in the 1950s, skateboarding was seen as a fad and dismissed by the mid 1960s, according to About.com.

The 1990s brought a revival of the sport, and when the X Games began in 1995 it

exposed skateboarding to the mainstream public.

Now many skaters have shows on MTV like Rob Dyrdek on "Rob and Big" or video games like Tony Hawk's series of games. Some skaters resent the new mainstream view of skateboarding.

"Skaters who are famous just for skating are the ones that should be known," Terwilliger said. "You shouldn't be a famous skater for having a TV show. The best skaters are the ones nobody's heard of rather than the ones you see on TV like Rob and Big."

Skateboarding's impact on popular culture is immeasurable.

Look around any classroom on any campus and you are sure to find at least somebody wearing a piece of clothing made by a skateboarding company.

It took almost 50 years since its creation to have a significant impact on society, but now that it has it doesn't look like it will be going anywhere anytime soon.

MURDER: Accused murderer released earlier this year from 8-year sentence

Continued from A1

moving to Maryville about a year ago, former neighbor Shirley Irwin said.

"He was a hard worker and he thought the world of his girls," Irwin said.

Steven has four children ages 2, 5, 8 and one in his middle teens, Espey said.

"He loved them to pieces, he was a good dad," Irwin said.

Steven and Ruschia filed for divorce in March 2007, but Ruschia motioned for dismissal on July 6, 2007, and the trial was officially dismissed on July 30, 2007, according to court records.

Ruschia, Steven and Sapp all work for Kawasaki in Maryville, but Espey said Steven and Sapp did not know each other.

Former neighbor Amy Allen worked alongside the Leachs in

the assembly department.

"I always thought he was a nice guy," Allen said. "Our kids always played with each other."

Steven's cousin, LaDean Gray, remembers growing up with him spending time at their grandmother's in Forest City, Mo.

"We had dinner together every Sunday," Gray said.

Memories of sledding and fishing together as kids are still vivid moments of the past. Despite growing apart in their young adult years, Gray recalls Steven as a quiet kid who kept to himself.

News of Steven's death came to Gray from her mother at 1:30 a.m.

"It's a real shock, you just can't believe it happened," Gray said. "I didn't actually comprehend what she was telling me at the time."

Steven was taken to the Jackson County Medical Examiner for

autopsy and was brought back to Mound City, Mo., where visitation takes place today.

Sapp was conditionally released Jan. 21 from the Western Missouri Correctional Center in Cameron following three prior convictions, spokesman Brian Hauswirth, Missouri Department of Corrections said.

Sapp was sentenced concurrently to seven years in July 2000 for a second-degree assault charge and a receiving stolen property charge.

While in prison, Sapp was charged with possession of an intoxicating liquor on the premises of a correctional center in April 2003. That charge added another year to his seven-year sentence.

Steven's funeral is set for 2 p.m. Friday. He will be buried in Forest City with his mother and grandparents.

CENTER: Current facility falls short on parking, disability needs, officials say

Continued from A1

with conference rooms. The center will also have adequate parking, Sutton said.

The current Alumni House is not compatible with the Americans with Disabilities Act, there isn't enough parking or enough room to accommodate large gatherings. The electrical

wiring meets housing standards but is not sufficient for office standards, Sutton said. The Alumni House has been in the area for several years.

"We really moved into the neighborhood in 1980," Covert said.

The current Alumni House will continue to be used for small gatherings.

As plans move forward, measures

are being taken to move the project forward.

Special use permits for signage and office space came through for the proposed properties, University Advancement Vice President Orrie Covert said. The next step is providing the city with the final designs, and then building permits will be applied for.

TREE: Residents asked to get involved

Continued from A1

wishes to have more of. Some of these species include White Fringe trees, Hawthornes, several varieties of Oak and Yoshino cherry trees, which have become famous for their beautiful blossoms in the Washington, D.C. area.

Johnson wants Maryville residents to share in the tree community

of the arboretum.

"Folks like to connect to the soil and this will help people do that. Everyone will enjoy the project, not just gardeners or agriculture people," she said.

Everyone is encouraged to volunteer for the plant-a-tree project. Volunteer Services Director Amy Nally said.

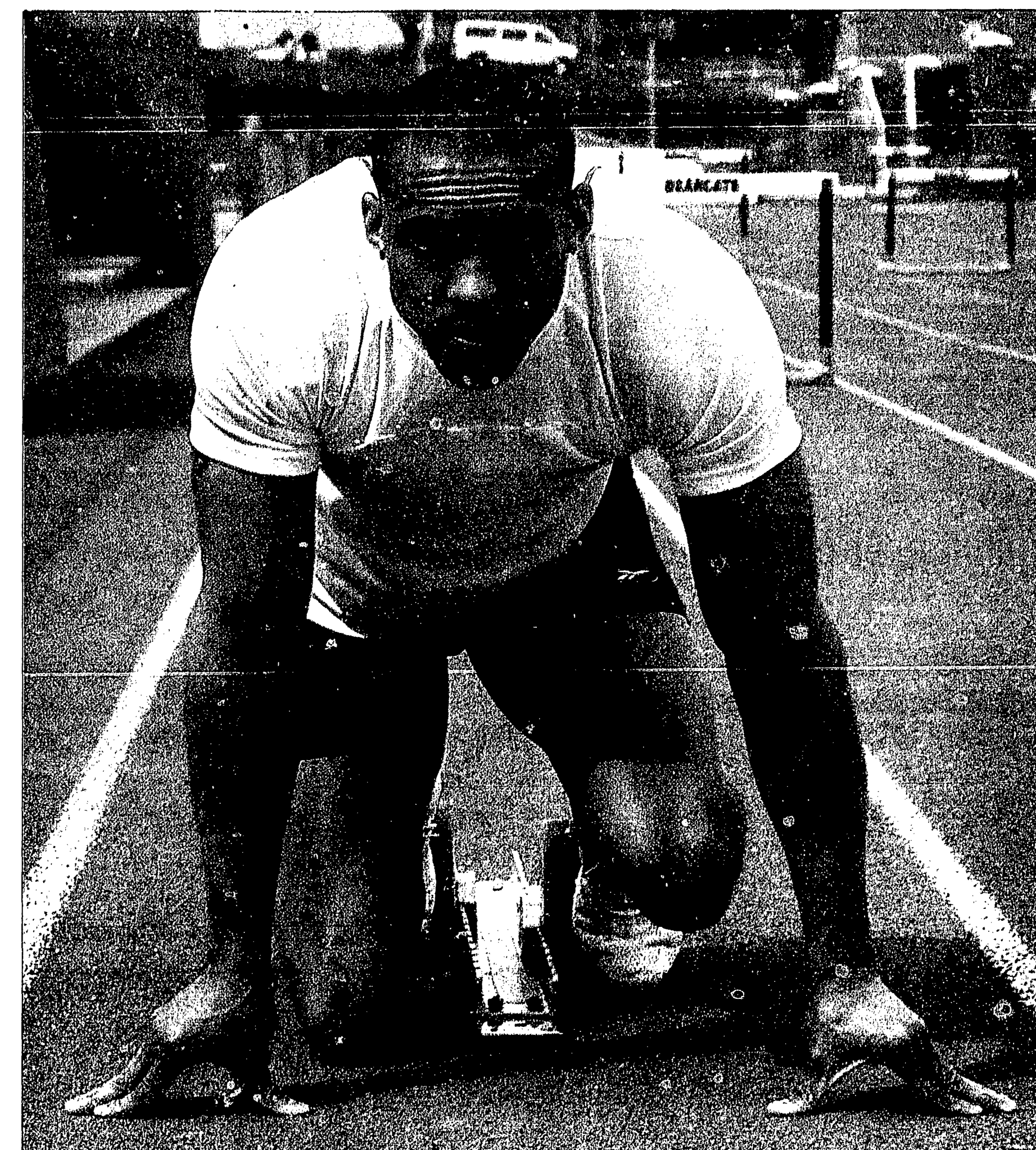
About 100 volunteers have already signed up and 100 more will be needed to make the project as successful as it can be, Nally said.

The first 250 volunteers to the event will receive a free T-shirt. In addition to Hubbard attending the event, Maryville Mayor Chad Jackson and a representative from the National Arboretum will attend.

SPORTS

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NW TRACK FEATURE



NORTHWEST SPRINTER E.J. Falkner looks to finish his senior year on a high note. After leaving the track team last year to focus on football, Falkner left the football team during the Missouri Southern game. Falkner rejoined the track team during the winter, and qualified for the national meet in his first meet back.

FALKNER'S FINALE

By Marcus Meade
Asst. Sports Editor

E.J. Falkner's life is defined by speed. On the track, he's a nationally recognized sprinter. On the football field, he's the fastest wideout at Northwest. Even in the hallways, he moves quickly to cram in the hours needed to graduate in May.

The only speed that can rival Falkner's is the quickness with which some are ready to criticize him for leaving the football team toward the end of last season, a criticism Falkner said isn't fair.

"Don't label me as a quote-unquote quitter," Falkner said. "Because that's not who I am."

This winter, Falkner attempted to prove his commitment by rejoining the track team, which he left more than a year ago to focus on football.

For a man who seems to be so in sync on the track, part of his problem may have been bad timing. He left the track team to focus on football and eventually quit football. He walked out on the football team in the middle of a game for everyone to see, a circumstance he now regrets.

"Most people got the wrong idea about him," Falkner's football and track teammate Kendall Wright said. "They don't really know what went down, but they still judge him."

The final year of Falkner's athletic career is radically different from the beginning. He caught 133 passes for more than 1,600 yards for the 'Cats, but it was on the track that he truly shined racking up four indoor All-American honors and two outdoor All-American honors.

The track is where Falkner will try to end his athletic career on a high note. But in order to do so, he had to make amends

with his teammates.

"I was telling the team I didn't want to be a distraction because of the prior situation with the football team," Falkner said. "I'm here to help. I'm here to give my all to support this team with coach Al retiring this year to get him a conference championship."

Falkner joined the track team during the indoor season, and provisionally qualified for nationals in his first meet back.

He struggled at the national event, but has another shot during the outdoor season.

"I think he's grown up a lot," Alsup said. "He's matured a lot, and he's here for the right reasons. He probably gets along just great now, because he comes to practice and he works out hard. I think it's a good situation for him and for us."

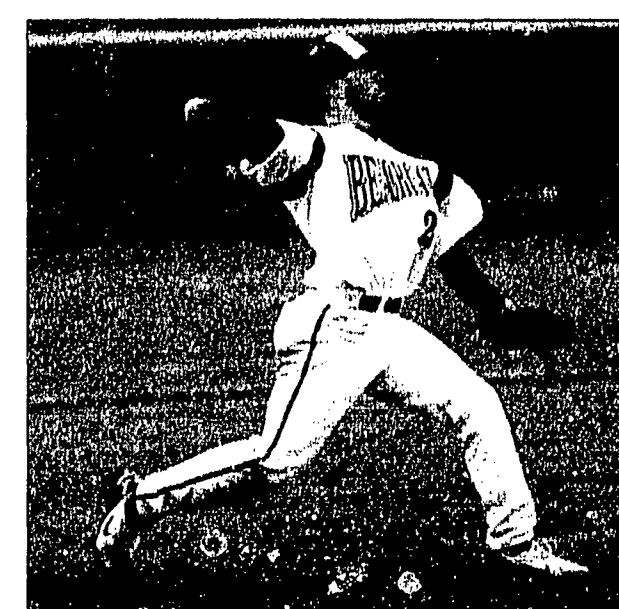
But football isn't out of Falkner's life completely. In fact, he hopes to make it a career after graduation. He participated in Northwest's pro day, an audition of athleticism for NFL scouts. He also has an agent. After a hectic senior year, Falkner is using words like humility and maturity to describe his experience. He apologized to the football team for the way he left, and is back on good terms with the coaching staff, he said. He's thankful to both Alsup and head football coach Mel Tjerdema for giving him the chance to get an education and play the sports he loves.

Though his senior year may have been rougher than his others, Falkner has taken valuable lessons from it.

"You just can't take things for granted nowadays. Honestly, I just think that leaving the team and coming back and letting the football team know I was sorry for my actions is all about manning up," Falkner said. "Just knowing that you're not going to be in the rain to long."

"Eventually, it's going to clear up. It can't rain every day."

NW BASEBALL



NORTHWEST SHORTSTOP RYAN Bledsoe throws out a Missouri Western baserunner in game two's seventh inning. Northwest split with the Griffons last Tuesday.

7-run surge stops Griffons, halts 4-game tumble

By Sam Robinson
Community Sports Editor

After getting stymied in game one, the Northwest bats emerged quickly in game two of Tuesday's twin-bill.

Northwest plated seven runs in the second inning and coasted the rest of the way to take game two 10-3 over Missouri Western (10-15, 7-7 MIAA). Griffon third baseman Adam Carolan's two-run double in the sixth propelled his team past the Bearcats 5-3 in game one, however.

Western clung to a 3-2 lead in the top of the sixth, but executed two bunt singles to bring up Carolan. The third baseman blasted a double down the left-field line to bring both runners home.

"It was pretty hard to watch," junior Chris Benham said. "It's always hard to watch bunts come in as runs to win a game. It's something that we just need to work on to make better plays on them."

Career RBI leader Britt Westman's home run gave the 'Cats a 1-0 lead in the second, but a two-out error opened the door to a three-run Griffons fourth inning to give them a lead they wouldn't relinquish.

"Those bunts weren't as big as our routine ground ball at shortstop which let in three unearned runs," coach Darin Lee said. "That was kind of the difference in the game."

Freshman Adam Switzer was tagged with the loss.

See BASEBALL on B2

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NW TRACK

Wright, Kiss strong at home meet

By Marcus Meade
Asst. Sports Editor

An hour's notice was all Northwest's senior long jumper/hurdler Kendall Wright needed to prepare for his first decathlon.

"We had a couple people not show up... and I called him and I said 'hey, you know you always said you were interested in doing the decathlon and thought it would be fun,' and he said 'yeah' so I asked him if he wanted to do it," Northwest coach Richard Alsop said. "He said 'yeah, that'd be fun. When's it start,' and I said 'in one hour.'"

Though he had never competed in many of the events, Wright placed second in the Herschel Neil Decathlon with 5,900 points, Monday. Unathletic athlete Ryan Koch finished first.

Wright's overall athleticism and expertise in the long jump and hurdles helped him take the lead after the first day of competition. Wright won or tied four of the first five events, but

showed his inexperience in field events on day two.

"If you saw him do anything at all this weekend, some of it wasn't very pretty," Alsop said. "He's just very energetic and very athletic, but the first day is certainly some events he could be very good in."

Unlike the men, women's track athletes competed in a seven-event heptathlon instead of the 10-event decathlon, and for the second year in a row, a Northwest athlete won the Ashley Nally Heptathlon.

Junior Jennifer Kiss overtook Minnesota State's Kaye Merrihew in the final event to win by 11 points, a small margin in heptathlon competition.

"It's nice to just have everything come together," Kiss said. "I got a personal record in five of the seven events."

Sophomore Lindsay Biermann competed in her first heptathlon with Kiss, and did well, women's coach Scott Lorek said. She could have finished even higher if not for a crash during the 100-meter hurdles.

Lorek also sent a small group of runners to Columbia for Missouri Relays last weekend.

Junior Audrey Bailey ran well in the 400-meter hurdles, Lorek said, finishing second and beating runners from University of Missouri-Columbia and Iowa State.

"It's not her best time ever, but it's certainly the best she's ever competed," Lorek said, "and the weather was bad so times weren't very good."

The Northwest men didn't compete as a team last weekend, but will be on display here in Maryville for the Jack's Nitch Northwest Open, the Bearcats' only home meet until conference championships are held here in May.

"We have people in Maryville who like track and field, but they don't travel because events are so long," Alsop said. "But here they can come and watch some and go home and come back because it lasts all day."

The Northwest Open begins at 10 a.m., Saturday, at Bearcat Stadium.



NORTHWEST ATHLETE JENNIFER KISS long jumps during the Ashley Nally Heptathlon last Monday. Kiss won the final two events to propel her to the heptathlon title.

NW WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Steinmeyer going back to the formula

By Brett Barger
University Sports Editor

Northwest women's coach Gene Steinmeyer has always had a formula for winning the MIAA.

"In this league, you have to win with a combination of high school seniors, junior college kids and Division I transfers," Steinmeyer said.

"You just have to live with that," Steinmeyer used that philosophy in 2004 when his transfer-laden team won the MIAA Tournament, and made its first national tournament appearance for just the third time in school history.

After four years, the nine-year head coach has returned to that philosophy after his team won the MIAA Tournament Championship and notched the schools' second tournament win in 24 years.

With six players lost to graduation, including prolific scorers Mandi Schumacher and Kelli Nelson, along with

defensive specialist Lauren Williams and transfer Andrea Dill, Steinmeyer has found success on the transfer wire.

Steinmeyer has gained commitments from 6-2 forwards Gentry Dietz and Riqueya McElroy. Dietz comes from Southern Illinois, while McElroy transferred from a junior college after playing her senior year of high school at Columbus African in Columbus, Ohio—the same school that produced Northwest guard Lance Sullivan.

Steinmeyer also has a point guard from Creighton who is expected to commit by week's end.

Those players are joined by high school commitments: guard Melanie Barnes, guard Shelly Martin and forward Tara Roach—the sister of Northwest defensive tackle Tyler Roach. Roach and Martin come from Nebraska, while Barnes hails from Plainsburg.

Steinmeyer said he must stick with the formula. After that tournament championship in 2004, Steinmeyer loaded his roster with freshman and over the next two seasons, the team went through growing pains, going 28-30 during that span.

"We targeted all of these high school seniors. They just kept committing," Steinmeyer said. "I should have cut it off at three or four, but I didn't, so we got stuck with eight freshmen and we had to go through all of these growing pains."

While Schumacher, Nelson, Williams and April Miller were part of that freshmen stockpile, Steinmeyer is hopeful his latest transfers will help returners Meghan Brue, Amber Vandevender and Jessica Burton build on back-to-back tournament appearances in 2008-2009.

"I think we've really helped fill our needs. I think we're going to be really talented next year," Steinmeyer said. "There's a lot of variables, so you don't know how it's going to turn out, but I'm excited about the future."

BASEBALL: Hot hitting cements win

Continued from B1

while Griffon pitcher Chris Jackson, who threw a complete game (in seven innings) on just 78 pitches, got the win.

Western's game-two hurler, Everett Saul, was not as efficient as Jackson, as it took him 43 pitches to get out of the second inning.

Five Cats (Benham, Bill Disselhoff, Trevor Conner, Ryan Bledsoe and Ben Malick) singled to produce

four runs. Sophomore right fielder Brandon Kirsch punctuated the frame with a three-run blast (his second of the day) to left to give the 'Cats a 7-0 lead.

Junior pitcher Danny Malone was stifling the Griffons on the mound as well, no-hitting them through four innings. But then Malone hit a batter and walked the next four to give Western two runs. Despite having his no-hitter still intact, Loe pulled him in favor of Zach Weston.

Weston and Brett Harvel allowed just one run the rest of the way. Northwest hosts Missouri Southwestern this weekend for a four-game set.

"It should be a tough decision to pull anybody with a no-hitter, but at that point, to be honest, it was an easy decision for me," Loe said. "It's unfortunate he wasn't able to continue on with that, but obviously we're in it for wins and we needed to get this win."

Weston and Brett Harvel allowed just one run the rest of the way. Northwest hosts Missouri Southwestern this weekend for a four-game set.

Weston and Brett Harvel allowed just one run the rest of the way. Northwest hosts Missouri Southwestern this weekend for a four-game set.

BEARCATS

NW SOFTBALL

Tourney provides regional insight

By Scott Levine
Sports Editor

The Northwest softball team squared off against five regional opponents at last weekend's University of Nebraska-Omaha Classic. The Bearcats went 4-1 against teams battling for the region's top eight spots, and they cemented themselves as a solid regional tournament threat.

"(Last) weekend, we played lights out," infielder Kaita Ballard said. "It was a total team effort. It was just good to see."

Northwest, ranked No. 5 regionally, lost the tournament's opener to the region's No. 1 ranked team, Southwest Minnesota State. The 'Cats fell behind 7-2 after three innings, but rallied with six runs in the next three innings to tie the score at eight.

Southwest Minnesota State knocked in two runs off three hits in the bottom of the sixth inning to reclaim the lead and eventually win 10-8.

Northwest then rattled off four consecutive victories, including a 9-7 triumph against No. 23 nationally ranked Minnesota State, and a 4-1 win against No. 9 regionally ranked South Dakota.

"The last four games we really came together as a team," outfielder Megan Simpson said. "We had been consistent all year with our bats, but it's our defense that's hurt us. But we played better defensively in those last four games."

Against Minnesota State, Northwest utilized a three-run first inning to grab an early lead. Erin Leslie led off with a single, and scored when Courtney Channell doubled to centerfield. The next batter, Simpson, doubled to center and brought home Channell. Simpson later scored via a passed ball.

The 'Cats tacked on five more runs during the next three innings to outlast Minnesota State's late six-run rally in the final three innings.

"Our hitting is way up from last year," Ballard said. "We'll always have rough patches, but when we've got ten people on this year, we're bringing them in. Right now, our one through nine (hitters) are producing."

Kelly Morris and Kelsey Resa manufactured strong pitching performances against South Dakota. Morris and Resa allowed one earned run during seven innings. They combined for seven strikeouts and allowed four hits.

Ballard provided breathing room for Resa in the fifth inning. Leading 2-1 with runners on second and third, Ballard stroked a double, driving in Simpson and Channell.

Northwest (18-9) concluded the tournament with a 10-3 win against Minnesota-Duluth and a victory against Wayne State. The 'Cats needed a six-run seventh inning to defeat Wayne State 6-2. Channell's two-RBI single provided the go-ahead runs.

The tournament improved Northwest's record against regional opponents to 10-2.

"We started the year with only our top of the order hitting," coach Ryan Anderson said. "But now we've become somewhat balanced and everyone's contributing. That's something we have to have."

The 'Cats recorded a .349 team batting average during the tournament, and averaged more than seven runs per game. Simpson went 11-for-18 with six RBIs, two homers and four doubles. Ballard mustered a .467 average with a team-high eight RBIs.

Northwest's focus now shifts to road conference contests. The 'Cats don't return home until April 11, when they face Fort Hays State.

"The adrenaline gets going and teams are out to kill when conference season starts," Simpson said. "There's a big difference from playing in February to playing now. The conference is so tight, that it's a toss-up right now."

Already 1-1 in the MIAA, Northwest travels to Pittsburg State Saturday and Emporia State Sunday. A trip to UNO concludes the road trip Tuesday.

Results of Wednesday's Truman State game were not available as of press time.

NW TENNIS

Vucenov earns top conference honor

By Scott Levine
Sports Editor

Northwest women's tennis player Kristina Vucenov notched another honor on her already impressive resume this week.

It wasn't another national tournament berth, instead, the MIAA named her Player of the Week. Vucenov went undefeated in singles play and 3-1 in doubles action during the week.

"She's (Vucenov) really coming along now," coach Mark Rosewell said. "She had a great win against (Zuzanna Osinska). She's getting a lot of confidence right now."

Vucenov, a NAIA All-American and Division II national tournament qualifier, needed three sets against Northeastern's (Okla.) Osinska. Osinska claimed the first set 6-4, but Vucenov rattled off victories of 6-4 and 6-1 in the final two sets.

Osinska reached the national tournament with Vucenov during the last season.

"I really needed that," Vucenov said. "That's helped build confidence for the rest of the season."

Vucenov owns 12 straight singles victories, improving her record to 29-3, while her doubles record sits at 13-3.

The team lost to No. 11 Northeastern State, 6-3 last Saturday, causing Northwest's first loss since March 1. During Vucenov's Player of the Week run, the team went 3-1, including a 2-1 against teams ranked in the top 40.

The men, ranked No. 33 nationally, went 3-2 last week, including a win against No. 35 Midwestern State.

"It's been tough for both teams with the elements," Rosewell said. "There is a big difference with having no wind indoors. We're still adjusting to it."

Vigil Schgal leads the men with a 13-4 record, while Giovanni Auricchio owns an 11-4 record. Jake Salsbury leads the team with 11 doubles victories.

"Jake is doing a good job," Rosewell said. "He's moved up from last year. Every time he plays, he's an overachiever. That's about all you can do when playing a match. He's doing a great job."

The men and women return to action at 3 p.m., Saturday, against Minnesota State, Mankato, at home, before squaring off against Truman State at 1 p.m., Sunday, at home.

SPOOFHOUNDS

MHS SOCCER

"This team's greatest asset is their attitude. You can have players with great talent but with poor attitudes and still lose... We have a lot of talent and great attitude so if we keep that up we will go far."

Bayo Oludaja,
Head coach



SPOOFHOUND FRESHMAN AMY YANDEVAN attempts to split two LeBlond defenders during the 'Hounds' 2-1 victory. YandeVan scored both goals for her squad in the victory. The 'Hounds' continued their success by beating Auburn (Neb.) 8-0.

Blanchard leads high-powered squad

By Brian Bosiljevac
Missourian Reporter

After starting off the season with a loss, the Maryville High School soccer team has battled back, winning two in a row.

"In our first game against Lafayette, the girls were nervous," coach Bayo Oludaja said. "It was very good to see them lose those nerves by the LeBlond game and we seem to be on a roll now."

The Spoofhounds looked like their early-season jitters were gone on Tuesday during an 8-0 victory against Auburn. Offensively, the 'Hounds' pounded in eight goals against the Bulldogs, while the defense didn't allow a single shot

on goal.

"In our first two games, we had a problem finishing our shots, and it was very good to see it being done tonight (Tuesday)," Oludaja said.

It was obvious that senior Ashley Blanchard did her part in finishing her shots. Blanchard was responsible for five of the 'Hounds' eight goals against the Bulldogs.

"She (Blanchard) is very talented. There's no doubt about that," Oludaja said. "We just need to get her to see that. Lately she has been holding back deciding to give the ball off to others, which is a good thing too. But hopefully tonight (Tuesday) gave her confidence and showed her how well she can shoot."

Along with Blanchard, Malorie Barnett, Elizabeth Schieber, and Ali Ackman added a goal apiece.

Blanchard is one of the four returning starters from last year's team. Oludaja hopes this season will provide a learning experience for the younger girls.

"This team's greatest asset is their attitude," Oludaja said. "You can have players with great talent but with poor attitudes, and you'll still lose. Also, you can have average players with good attitude, and they will play well."

"We have a lot of talent and great attitude so if we keep that up we will go far."

The girls look to avenge their season's only loss against Lafayette at 5:30 p.m., Thursday at Lafayette.

MHS TRACK

Boys take first meet; girls get ready

By Dustin Sander
Missourian Reporter

The Maryville boys' and girls' track teams can finally start training outside this season.

After countless practices indoors, the Spoofhounds' track team can outdoors this week.

The girls' team is still recovering from injuries stemming from practicing indoors.

"We've had tons of injuries, but hopefully, we can all be healthy by Friday for our first meet," Maryville girls coach Grant Hageman said.

Many of the runners suffer mainly from shin splints, making

it hard for relay teams to practice handoffs.

"Practicing indoors makes it tough for [relay] teams to work on handoffs because it is so much smaller indoors," senior Jordan Gadois said.

The 'Hounds' looked strong at the Cameron time trials, though the time trials did not count as an official meet.

The girls' team will compete in its first meet Friday at Chillicothe.

The boys' team ran in its first meet last Friday at Graceland University. The 'Hounds' handily took first place overall.

The boys' team will also be competing Friday at Chillicothe.

in the 800-meter and 1600-meter relays. Coach Chris Holt said the relay teams might be able to take a few spots in Class 3.

"State is tough, we are the smallest school in Class 3, and we run into a lot of speed competing against the city schools," Holt said.

Junior long jumper John Farmer showed great promise to reach state again this season. Farmer already reached 21 feet in the season's first meet. His longest jump of last season was only two inches farther at 21 feet and 2 inches.

The boys' team will also be competing Friday at Chillicothe.

MHS GOLF

Hendrix drives to victory

By Mandy Threlkeld
Missourian Reporter

The first home match of the season proved to be successful for the Maryville varsity boys' golf team. They defeated Mid-Buchanan by five strokes finishing with a 169.

Captain Brenda Ricks said she was looking forward to the match today to see how her players would do with the home course advantage. Senior Luke Hendrix was a medalist in the match finishing with a 40, and fellow senior Zack Jackson was right behind him with a 41.

The performance excited Ricks since Monday was the first chance her team had to get out on the driving range.

"For the first two weeks of the season we were in the gym hitting birdie balls and doing other activities inside to help with team building," Ricks said.

Although weather has inhibited practice, Hendrix said he was pleased with his medalist performance.

"I hit my drive really well today and my putting was pretty well to," Hendrix said.

Jackson was also happy with the days performance but said there is always room for improvement. The other scores for the day included Trevor Shell who shot a 45 and Tanner Reames who shot a 43.

With much of the season still left Ricks is looking ahead towards state. She is looking for state qualifiers and tournament wins. Jackson is also looking forward to starting tournament play.

"I look forward to all the tournaments. All are a chance to improve your game before districts and state," Jackson said.

The golfers return to action at 4 p.m., today, against Benton and Savannah on the road.



TANNER REAMES CHIPS onto the green on hole one during their meet against Mid Buchanan at Moxingo Lake Golf Course.

MHS BASEBALL

After slow start, slumping squad attempts to rebound against Dragons

By Christopher Woodland
Missourian Reporter

Despite a sluggish start, the Maryville baseball team sees reasons for optimism for the rest of the season.

The Spoofhounds dropped both games in the Excelsior Springs Tournament last weekend despite leading in games against both St. Pius and Richmond.

The 'Hounds' pitching staff performed exceptionally in the two games, but fielding errors cost the team in the long run according to coach Tom Alvarez.

They were scheduled to play last Monday night at Lee's Summit Community Christian, but Sunday night's storms caused a cancellation. Conflicting schedules derailed a makeup date.

Maryville, 1-5 overall (1-0 in MEC), got its only win of the season last Thursday against conference opponent Lafayette 4-3. Alvarez credits strong pitching as a key to that victory.

Senior Aaron Dueker started the game and garnered the win. Fellow senior Andy Walter moved over from shortstop last in the game and recorded a save for the 'Hounds.

"We're kind of looking at Andy as a closer," Alvarez said. "He throws the ball really well but we need him at short stop more."

"That's an area (hitting) we've been practicing and it's been paying



SPOOFHOUND TANNER WALTER was thrown out at third attempting to try to advance on a base hit during their loss to Benton, March 24. The 'Hounds' are 1-3 this season with a win over MEC rival Lafayette.

Alvarez feels a key component to his team doing well is to improve on little things that will lead to an overall improved team effort.

"While we've been in every game so far the scores haven't really shown it," Alvarez said. "We need better mental focus and preparation. We've got to focus on making routine plays."

"Sometimes our defense looks really amazing, but we need to focus on making the routine plays."

Although costly breakdowns have occurred from time to time in the field, the 'Hounds' pitching has been solid thus far. Along with strong pitching, hitting has been an area the 'Hounds' have been successful.

"That's an area (hitting) we've been practicing and it's been paying

off," Alvarez said. "They've been really aggressive at the plate and that's what I like. I don't like them looking at pitches."

The team does see reason for optimism leading into its next game.

"We think our hitting got a lot better this weekend, and if our pitching and fielding gets a little better we should be a good team," Dueker said.

The 'Hounds' try to improve their conference record to 2-0 tonight when they travel to Cameron for an MEC matchup.

The game will match strength against strength with Maryville's pitching going against a Cameron team that hits the ball really well.

Alvarez said.

The J.V. and Varsity will be in action tonight against Cameron with the first game starting at 4:30 p.m.

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NWMSU, MHS Athletes of the Week

Wright

The senior from Sulphur Springs, Texas, won five events at the Herschel Neil Decathlon last Sunday and Monday in Maryville.

Simpson

The junior outfielder from Blue Springs, Mo., went 11-for-18 with two home runs and four doubles in five games.

Blanchard

The senior forward scored five of her team's eight goals in Maryville's 8-0 defeat of Auburn (Neb.) Tuesday night.

Farmer

The junior long jumper surpassed his state meet jump of last season (20 feet 8 inches) with a 21-foot jump at Graceland last week.

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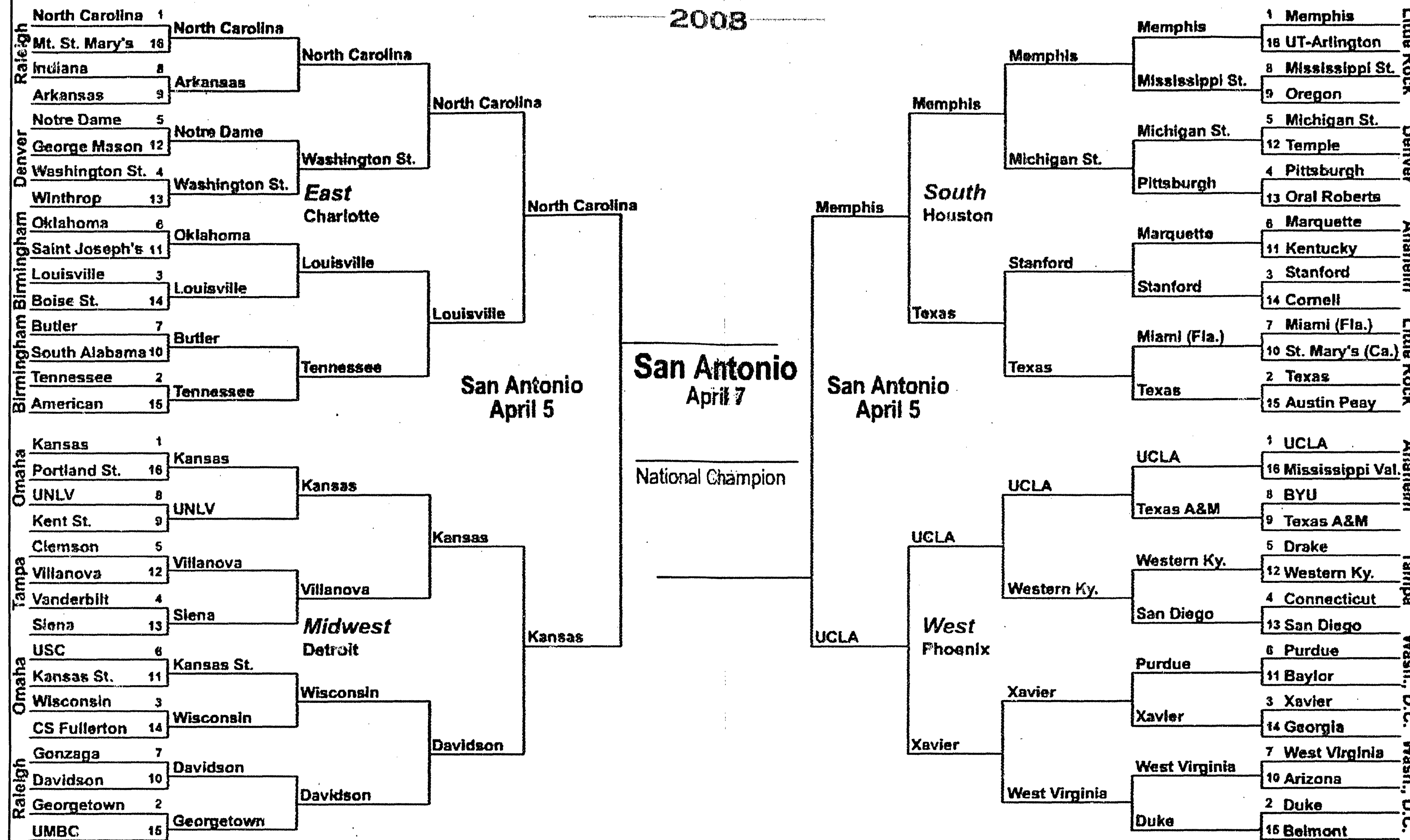
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Recovering

Reaching

Campus support groups aim to help sexual abuse victims

By Whitney Keyes
Features Editor

She was 13 when it happened. By the time she went to college, she started remembering her past. Started to remember everything she had blocked out, everything she had forgotten.

Much of her childhood, growing up in Illinois came back to her, a flood of painful memories. The memories of sexual abuse as a child and rape at the tender age of 13.

Northwest Associate Professor Lauren Leach-Steffens is a sexual abuse and rape survivor and after years of therapy is open about her experiences.

"It's important for me to talk about it, because it's important to know you can come out on the other side," she said. "It doesn't mark you for life. It's not a scarlet letter."

Though she is open with her story, Leach-Steffens tries to focus more on the recovery than the incidents themselves. All she'll say is that it wasn't close family who victimized her, making sure to say that her father is one of her biggest supporters.

Leach-Steffens was "very gregarious but awkward," she said, describing herself as a child who trusted easily and was bullied often.

That combination is a common personality pedophiles look for, she said.

"Pedophiles target children that they gain their trust. And once you become a child victim, it's easy to become a victim again," Leach-Steffens said.

Throughout her years of abuse, she forgot much of it. When she was raped at 13, it brought an end to the abuse. Now, 32 years later, she can look back on her recovery and realize she's a stronger person because of the work she's done.

Her journey to recovery began when she went away to University of Illinois, two and a half hours away from her small hometown. She hadn't dated in high school, but started to in college. But the new relationships triggered what Leach-Steffens calls "full-fledged post traumatic stress disorder."

It started to interfere with her class work, as she was having severe anxiety attacks frequently. But, fortunately, she found an all-female support group for victims and a female graduate adviser who was helpful and under-

standing.

It was during college that Leach-Steffens came to terms with the fact that she was a victim of sexual abuse and rape. Until this point of her life, she'd developed "very efficient forgetting systems."

At 21, she finally told her parents what happened to her as a child. Though her father believed her immediately, her mother initially doubted her daughter.

"A mother doesn't want to believe she hasn't protected her kid," Leach-Steffens said.

After finishing her degrees, Leach-Steffens went on to teach, and throughout the years continued recovering. She saw four different therapists, each one helping through a different approach.

Now, she wants to share her story of recovery and help other young adults struggling with similar issues.

"I'm not a victim anymore," she said.

As seen in Leach-Steffens' case, her years in college played a huge role in helping her deal with her traumatic past. Though current programs in place are different and more diverse than those offered during her years as a student, the concept is still the same.

Two years ago, Northwest started The Lighthouse Project, a "program to reduce violent crime against women on campus." The program was funded by a two-year grant through the Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women. The funding, an estimated \$200,000, allowed for a project director and assistant director who dedicated their time to raising awareness on campus, counseling students and providing support however they can.

The staff was in charge of planning events such as the Clothesline Project, Denim Day and the White Rib-



AS A SURVIVOR of sexual assault and rape, Northwest Associate Professor Lauren Leach-Steffens found help and comfort during college through various support systems.

Photo by Jared Decker / Chief Photographer

bon Campaign, which aims to increase understanding in males. In addition to events such as these, they also provide education at events such as BobbyPalooza.

When the grant was nearing its completion, the staff reapplied for the same grant. However, the grant was denied and the staff for The Lighthouse Project was let go on Dec. 31.

"We're not doing nearly as much as I'd like to," said Health Services Operations Coordinator Vince Shisler.

Now, the program has "morphed" into the Wellness Center, and the staff is still trying to hold the same events as before.

University of Central-Missouri in Warrensburg was also denied the grant. They implemented The Lighthouse Project the same year as Northwest, after receiving the same grant.

Shisler said the reasons for the denial of the grant was that the DOJ is attempting to branch out in their grants, by targeting schools of "problem areas."

Northwest has reapplied for the grant and will find out in the fall if it has been approved. No matter what, they are determined to be a resource for students struggling with issues of sexual assault, relationship violence and stalking.

"You're going to go through a lot of feelings and a lot of stages," Leach-Steffens said.

For a survivor who recovered during college, Leach-Steffens understands the importance of supporting groups such as The Lighthouse Project. It's a long and tough road, but in the end is worth it.

"It becomes just another thing that happened to you, it has no more weight than anything else," she said. "Going through the work will make you stronger and happier."